b) has at least three preferably consecutive amino acids identical to at least three solvent-exposed amino acids of an allergenic protein which appear in close vicinity on the molecular surface of the allergenic protein.

2. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein said at least three solvent-exposed amino acids appear on the molecular surface of the allergenic protein within a surface patch of approximately 500 square Angström.

3. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein at least five consecutive amino acids of the peptide are identical to at least five consecutive solvent-exposed amino acids of the allergenic protein.

4. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, further containing an adjuvant.

5. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein all amino acids of the peptide except one are identical to the amino acids of an amino acid sequence which is part of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

6. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5, wherein the one amino acid which deviates from the amino acid sequence of the allergenic protein is the N-terminal or C-terminal amino acid of the peptide amino acid sequence.

7. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of the peptide is identical to an amino acid sequence which is part of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

8. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the allergenic protein is the birch pollen allergen Bet v 1.

9. (once amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the peptide amino acid sequence comprises at least the N-terminal or C-terminal five amino acids of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

14. (once amended) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) determining which amino acids of a given allergenic protein are solvent-exposed on the surface of the allergenic protein;

b) preparing a peptide having a length of 8 to 50 amino acids, wherein at least three preferably consecutive amino acids of the peptide are identical to at least three solvent-exposed amino acids of the allergenic protein which appear in close vicinity on the molecular surface of the allergenic protein; and

c) optionally admixing the peptide with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said at least three solvent-exposed amino acids appear on the molecular surface of the allergenic protein within a surface patch of approximately 500 square Angström.

16. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein at least five consecutive amino acids of the peptide are identical to at least five consecutive solvent-exposed amino acids of the allergenic protein.

17. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, further comprising adding an adjuvant.

18. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein all amino acids of the peptide except one are identical to the amino acids of an amino acid sequence which is part of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

19. (once amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the one amino acid which deviates from the amino acid sequence of the allergenic protein is the N-terminal or C-terminal amino acid of the peptide amino acid sequence.

20. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence of the peptide is identical to an amino acid sequence which is part of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

21. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the allergenic protein is the birch pollen allergen Bet v 1.

22. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the peptide amino acid sequence comprises at least the N-terminal or C-terminal five amino acids of the allergenic protein amino acid sequence.

23. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the solvent-exposed amino acids of the allergenic protein are determined by determining the hydrophilicity profile of the allergenic protein.

24. (once amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the solvent-exposed amino acids of the allergenic protein are determined from the three-dimensional structure of the allergenic protein.

Please add the following new claims:

28. (new) A method for treating an allergic disease, comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1.